

CALDERDALE *Climate Challenge*

... is one of the 'action partnerships' of the [Calderdale Sustainability Forum](#): the other two are [Calder Future](#) ('the partnership to improve the River Calder, its tributaries and banksides'), and the Calderdale Waste Partnership (with Calderdale Council as the lead partner, and the ['Recycle for Calderdale'](#) promotion).

Calderdale Sustainability Forum (CSF) is the Local Agenda 21 organisation for our area. It is concerned to promote action on sustainable development, and to assist our communities to engage in that process.

At the start of 2006, CSF decided to apply for one of the local ['Climate Challenge'](#) grants that a government department (DEFRA) were about to make available in order to increase awareness of climate change issues and that, by working together, we can tackle climate change. The [rules](#) of the DEFRA scheme were that only the best bids in the country would win a grant!

DEFRA emphasised that they particularly wanted to encourage applications from partnerships led by a voluntary sector or community organisation, which is exactly how CSF operates. We quickly put together such a partnership, involving regional and local organisations of every kind who have an interest in tackling climate change; in fact, we think Calderdale Climate Challenge (CCC), has more partners than any other scheme in the country (see list overleaf).

All this, and our plan to try and communicate about climate change to everybody across Calderdale, and to particular sectors and communities, must have helped because in June we heard that we had been one of the seven successful bids from Yorkshire and the Humber. And just one month earlier it was also announced that the regional 'Climate Change Champion' (a young person who can be an ambassador for 'climate challenge' in the region) was also from Calderdale: Zoheb Khalil from Halifax, now age 11. So that's a double success for Calderdale.

Since then, we have been preparing to launch our campaign - in the second half of November. Our main programme will be implemented across 2007. CCC has no permanent staff (instead it is being organised by expert freelancers; the overall project coordinator Anthony Rae is not paid), and will be delivering its sizeable communication programme very cost effectively.

And in our 2007 communications programme, Calderdale Climate Challenge ...

- will have, at its centrepiece, a 12 page [web site](#) . This will provide information, and offer participation in the project; and you'll be able to take the Calderdale 'Climate Clever' test.
- will also use the communications channels of its many partners, media relations and print material to drive traffic to the website.
- starts its main communication programme in 2007, distributing two leaflets to every household.
- has appointed a Climate Change Schools Adviser, who has already started her programme of visiting every primary school to offer an instructive school assembly. And will, we hope, also have other activity involving young people.

- offer free talks and presentations to decision makers and communities about climate change.
- will be developing a business programme, particularly to SMEs, with a message that lowering emissions will raise their profitability.
- will be working with three neighbourhood management areas (Ovenden, Mixenden and West Central Halifax) to take the climate challenge story into these communities.

Contact: Anthony Rae ar@anthonyrae.com 01422 845061

Our Partners

Calderdale Sustainability Forum (CSF): coordinator and lead partner
 Calderdale Council
 Environment Agency
 Calderdale Forward - Local Strategic Partnership
 NHS: Calderdale Primary Care Trust & Calderdale & Kirklees (Acute) Trust
 Yorkshire & the Humber (Y&H) Regional Assembly
 Y&H Regional Environment Forum
 Yorkshire Forward (RDA)
 Calderdale & Kirklees Green Business Network
 WY Business in the Community
 HBOS - Halifax Bank of Scotland
 Calderdale Community Forum
 Voluntary Action Calderdale
 Ovenden Initiative & Mixenden Initiative (Neighbourhood Management Programmes)
 Calderdale (and Kirklees) Affordable Warmth Partnership
 Pennine 2000 (principal social landlord)
 Metro - West Yorkshire PTE
 First Calderline – principal bus operator
 Eureka! The Museum for Children
 Calderdale Waste Partnership
 Calder Future - river improvement partnership
 Alternative Technology Centre - Hebden Bridge
 Treeresponsibility - tree planting for climate change voluntary initiative